Claims

What Is Claimed Is:

1.   A method for multimodal communication comprising:

maintaining, during non-session conditions and on a per user basis,

5   concurrent multimodal session status information of user agent programs configured for

different concurrent modality communication during a session, and

re-establishing a concurrent multimodal session in response to accessing

the concurrent multimodal session status information.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining, during non-session

10   conditions and on a per user basis, concurrent multimodal session status information of

user agent programs configured for different concurrent modality communication

during a session includes storing, during a session, at least one of:

location data indicating where last fetched information was

obtained for each of a plurality of user agent programs used during a concurrent

15   multimodal communication session;

information on which field has been filled by user input during

the concurrent multimodal communication session and the field content; and

current dialogue states for the concurrent multimodal

communication session.

20   3.   The method of claim 1 including the steps of:

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detecting a joining of a session by a user;

accessing concurrent multimodal session status information;

if the accessed concurrent multimodal session status information indicates a prior concurrent multimodal session for the user, then re-establishing the

5   concurrent multimodal session identified by the concurrent multimodal session status information.

4.   The method of claim 1 including the step of maintaining which devices are employed during a concurrent multimodal session to facilitate switching of devices during a concurrent multimodal communication.

10   5.   The method of claim 1 including temporarily storing, during a session, modality specific instructions for at least one of a plurality of user agent programs that operate in different modalities with respect to each other to compensate for communication delay associated with modality specific instructions for a second of the plurality of user agent programs.

15   6.   The method of claim 1 including the step of receiving multimode mute data and storing a record of which modalities for a multimodal communication are to be muted for a given session.

7. A multimodal apparatus comprising:

a concurrent multimodal session persistence controller operative to maintain, during non-session conditions and on a per user basis, concurrent multimodal session status information of user agent programs configured for different

5   concurrent modality communication during a session and to re-establish a concurrent multimodal session in response to accessing the concurrent multimodal session status information; and

memory, operatively coupled to the concurrent multimodal session persistence controller, containing the concurrent multimodal session status

10   information.

8. The multimodal apparatus of claim 7 wherein the memory contains at least one of:

proxy identification data indicating a previous proxy used in a prior concurrent multimodal communication session;

15   information on which field has been filled by user input during the concurrent multimodal communication session and the field content; and

current dialogue states for the concurrent multimodal communication session.

9. The multimodal apparatus of claim 7 wherein the concurrent multimodal

20   session persistence controller accesses the concurrent multimodal session status information contained in the memory and if the accessed concurrent multimodal session

status information indicates a prior concurrent multimodal session for the user,

facilitates re-establishment of the concurrent multimodal session identified by the

concurrent multimodal session status information.